

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 13-17, and 19-20 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

In the Office Action dated July 11, 2006, the Examiner objected to claim 16 as depending from itself. Claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 15 as assumed by the Examiner. Reconsideration of claim 16 as amended is requested.

Claims 13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is submitted that claims 15, 17, and 19 have been amended to depend from claim 14 in order to correct the lack of antecedent basis. Claim 13 has been amended to remove the recitation of mounting means as objected to by the Examiner. As amended, claim 13 now recites a rocker arm mountable for pivotable movement about a central portion from the vehicle body, a first outer end portion of the rocker arm pivotally connected directly to an end of the shock absorber and spring assembly, and a second outer end portion of the rocker arm opposite from the first outer portion pivotally connected to the transverse link. It is submitted that these amendments traverse and overcome the Examiner's objection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Reconsideration of claims 13-19 as amended is requested.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7-9, 12-16, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Zadok (US Publication No. 2003/0122336 A1). The Examiner asserts that Zadok teaches a strut suspension for a vehicle body including a shock absorber and spring assembly (18, 20) mounted at one end (the low portion) to an upper portion of the steering knuckle (14) and a transverse link (28) connected to the steering knuckle opposite from the shock absorber and spring mount location and further including a rocker arm (22) supported pivotally on the vehicle body (26) and pivotally connected to the shock absorber and spring assembly at an opposite end

from the steering knuckle (24) and pivotally connected to a push rod (42) which is connected between the rocker arm and the transverse link (via lever 38). The Examiner further asserts that the upper portion of the strut is connected to an outboard portion of the rocker arm and push rod is connected to an inboard portion of the rocker arm (see Figure 2), and that the lower portion of the push rod is connected to a lower portion of the steering knuckle via the transverse link. It is submitted that the Zadok reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest the invention as recited in the amended claims. In particular, as best seen in Figures 2 or 5, upper arm 22 is pivotally connected by a suitable pivot pin or the like at 26 directly to the chassis or body of the vehicle. A lower control arm assembly or unit 28 is connected at an outer end at pivot 30 to wheel axle assembly 14 and pivotally connected at an inner end by floating pin 32 to the vehicle chassis. The upper arm 22 has a compensating link 42 connected by crank arm 34 to lower control arm assembly 28. The compensating link 42 is connected to the upper arm 22 at pivot 46 located between pivot point 26 and pivot point 24. The Zadok reference fails to anticipate, teach or suggest a first portion of a rocker arm having three pivot points define one inboard pivot point, one outboard pivot point, and one fixed pivot point located between the inboard and outboard pivot points with respect to a center line of the vehicle body. The Zadok reference teaches a fixed pivot point 26, but this pivot point is not located between inboard and outboard pivot points (at 24, and at 46). With respect to claim 13, the Zadok reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest a rocker arm mountable for pivotal movement about a central portion from the vehicle body, a first outer end portion of the rocker arm pivotally connected directly to an end of the shock absorber spring assembly, and a second outer end portion of the rocker arm opposite from the first outer portion pivotally connected to the transverse link. With respect to claim 20, the Zadok reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest a first portion of the rocker arm pivotally connectible at a second pivot point directly to an end of the shock absorber spring assembly opposite the steering knuckle, a second portion of the rocker arm having a third pivot point, the first pivot point located in a lateral direction or frame of reference with respect to a center line of the vehicle body

between the second and third pivot points, and the push rod extending between the rocker arm and the traverse link as more specifically recited in claim 20.

Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Claims 4-5, 10-11, and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zadok. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to reverse the pivot points for the shock absorber and the vehicle mount to accommodate vehicle chassis of differing structure. It is submitted that the Zadok reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest the invention as recited in the claims of the pending application. In particular, the Zadok reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest the fixed pivot point of the rocker arm being located in a central portion with the other two pivot points being located at opposite ends of the rocker arm. Since the Zadok reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest the specific structural configuration of the invention as recited in the claims of the present application, it is submitted that these claims are patentable over the prior art of record. The Examiner is requested to cite a reference teaching this specific structural configuration if the present rejection is to be maintained. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections of the claims in the pending application is requested.

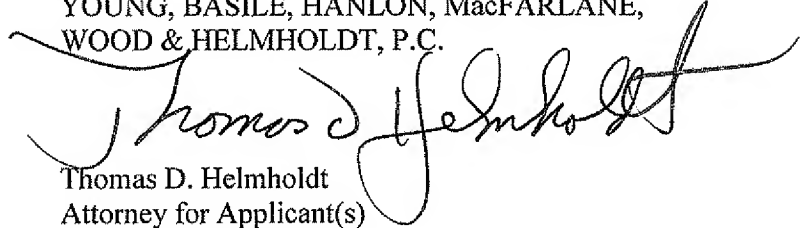
It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can

be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas D. Helmholdt", written over the printed name and firm name.

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